

***St. Lucie County Utilities
Holiday Pines Water System
Planned Conversion to Chloramine Disinfection
June 23, 2008***

The purpose of this notice is to provide all customers of the Holiday Pines Water System with information regarding planned modifications to the disinfection process used to treat the public water supply. St. Lucie County Utilities has completed the installation of equipment necessary to convert the Holiday Pines disinfection system from standard chlorination to chloramination. This change is being made to improve water quality and to permit blending of water from the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) system with Holiday Pines water at times of increased demand. The Fort Pierce Utilities Authority uses chloramine for disinfection of their water. St. Lucie County Utilities currently purchases bulk water from the FPUA for the North Water System and North Hutchinson Island Water System service areas.

Conversion of the Holiday Pines Water System required testing and certification of the installed system at the treatment plant. The chloramination system has been successfully tested and certified for operation. **Permanent conversion of the Holiday Pines system to the use of chloramination for disinfection will take place on June 23, 2008.** Please take note of the permanent conversion date and of the following information regarding chloramine disinfection.

Chloramine disinfection produces a combined chlorine residual in the drinking water distribution system through the application of both chlorine and ammonia. This is different from the customary disinfection method where only chlorine is used. The information provided below explains the impact of the changes in more detail.

What are Chloramines?

Chloramines are a type of disinfectant used to kill potentially harmful bacteria in water. Chloramine disinfection uses a combination of chlorine and ammonia to treat the water.

Is chloraminated water safe?

Chloraminated water is completely safe for everyone to drink. Chloraminated water is also safe for use in bathing, cooking, cleaning scrapes and cuts, doing laundry, watering the lawn and garden and other customary uses. With the exception of kidney dialysis machines, aquariums, and certain businesses such as pet stores, there is no difference in the way water can be used. Chloramine disinfection has been used successfully as an alternative to the standard chlorine disinfection process for many years and in many public water systems throughout Florida and the U.S.

What are the benefits of converting to chloramine disinfection?

The use of chloramines reduces the creation of cancer causing compounds, such as Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), which result from the reaction of chlorine with naturally occurring material found in ground water. In the case of the Holiday Pines water system, it will permit the blending of chloraminated water from the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) system with Holiday Pines water at times of increased demand.

Are there any adverse effects of using chloramines?

Yes, there are certain adverse effects of which consumers must be aware. First, chloramine can be harmful when it is present in water used for kidney dialysis operation. Care must be taken to remove all traces of chloramine from water used in dialysis machines. Chloramine can also be toxic to fish, amphibians and other aquatic animals. This includes all aquariums in homes, businesses, and restaurants as well as fish containers at bait shops. Care must be taken to remove the chlorine and ammonia when changing the water in aquariums.

What special precautions do dialysis patients have to take with chloraminated water? Dialysis patients can drink, bathe, and cook with chloraminated water without expecting any negative effects, but they cannot use chloraminated water in the dialysis process. Chloraminated water can be toxic if it enters directly into the bloodstream during the dialysis process. Just like chlorine, chloramines must be removed from water used in the dialysis process. We advise customers who are dialysis patients to call their physicians or dialysis centers.

What special precautions should fish owners take?

Chloramine must be removed from any water that is to be used in fish tanks or ponds. Chloramine can be removed from water by using a water conditioner specifically designed for removing chloramine or by using a granular activated carbon filter. Your local pet supplier should be able to provide you with additional information and detailed instructions regarding these products.

If you have questions regarding the planned disinfectant conversion for the Holiday Pines Water System, please contact St. Lucie County Utilities at (772) 462-1150.

PARA LOS CLIENTES HISPANOS

Esta es una notificación importante sobre la calidad de su agua. Si usted no cuenta con alguien que pueda traducirle esta notificación, llame a la División de Asuntos del Consumidor de St. Lucie County (772) 462-1150 y con mucho gusto le asistiremos.